

Message Text

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO: REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONGRESSION-
AL REPORT ON 102ND EXBD MEETING, APRIL 25 - MAY 12, 1977

REF: PARIS 14729

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT REPORT TO CHAIRMAN FASCELL. PERM-
DEL'S COMMENTS REQUESTED C.O.B. FRIDAY, MAY 27:

2. DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE ABOUT UNESCO WHICH BEGAN
WITH YOUR COMMITTEE LAST FEBRUARY -- FIRST AT HEARINGS
ABOUT FUNDS FOR UNESCO AND THEN IN OUR FEBRUARY 25 LETTER
ABOUT FUTURE PLANS -- I AM WRITING TO SHARE WITH YOU OUR
ASSESSMENT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED SPRING
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SESSION OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD (HELD IN PARIS FROM
APRIL 25 TO MAY 12, 1977).

THE BACKDROP FOR THE MEETING WAS, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW,
SOMEWHAT MIXED. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND OF THE SECRETARIAT
WERE AWARE OF THE ACTIONS IN CONGRESS WHICH OFFERED
PROMISE OF PAYMENT OF U. S. ARREARAGES FOR 1975 AND 1976,

AS WELL AS GOOD HOPE FOR PAYMENT OF A PORTION OF OUR 1977 DUES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE U. S. WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY PAYMENT EITHER BEFORE OR DURING THE BOARD MEETING, LEAVING THE ORGANIZATION TO FACE THE TYPE OF DIFFICULTY WHICH HAS BEEN A CONSTANT FACTOR SINCE THE END OF 1974. (ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO BORROW \$6 MILLION FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES TO MEET THE MAY PAYROLL). THERE WERE 25 NEW MEMBERS ON THE BOARD INCLUDING 5 NEW POSITIONS RESULTING FROM THE BOARD'S ENLARGEMENT (FROM 40 TO 45), AND MANY MEMBERS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH OUR CONCERNS HAD BEEN REPLACED BY MEMBERS SOMEWHAT NEW AND UNKNOWN TO US AND OFTEN UNFAMILIAR WITH OUR CONCERNS. MANY FELT -- AND WE AGREED -- THAT THE LACK OF NEW FACTORS AND ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES ARGUED AGAINST RAISING THE ISRAELI-RELATED POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE FIGURED SO PROMINENTLY IN UNESCO SINCE 1974.

AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, WE LOOK UPON THE OVERALL RESULTS OF THE SPRING SESSION AS BASICALLY POSITIVE, THOUGH HARDLY

WE TOOK STEPS TO REINFORCE OUR CUSTOMARY DELEGATION -- BY HAVING A SENIOR OFFICIAL FROM THE BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS SPEND ONE WEEK AT THE BOARD, AND BY THE ATTENDANCE FOR ANOTHER WEEK OF MRS. SARAH GODDARD POWER, CHAIRPERSON OF THE U. S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO.

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OUR REPRESENTATIVES WERE GIVEN CAREFUL AND ATTENTIVE HEARINGS ON ALL SUBJECTS. THIS INCLUDED THE INITIATIVE WE TOOK TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROCEDURES TO DEAL WITH STRONGLY-HELD DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEMBER STATES IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT DETRACT FROM THE RESPONSIBILITIES FALLING TO UNESCO UNDER ITS UNIQUE MANDATE. OUR INITIATIVE -- A STATEMENT TO THE BOARD, PRECEDED AND ACCOMPANIED BY QUITE EXTENSIVE PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS -- OUTLINED THE NEED FOR SUCH PROCEDURES AND PROPOSED THIS MATTER BE FORMALLY DEALT WITH BY THE BOARD AT ITS FALL SESSION. HAVING NEITHER CALLED FOR NOR EXPECTED A FORMAL BOARD REACTION, WE WERE GRATIFIED BY THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE PRIVATE COMMENTS MADE BY BOARD MEMBERS.

THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DEBATE -- ONE OF GREAT INTEREST TO US -- TURNED OUT TO BE THE QUESTION OF IMPROVING UNESCO'S CAPACITY FOR DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, ISSUES WHICH ARE OFTEN THE BASIS FOR POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED ATTACKS MADE IN UNESCO. WE WERE VERY SATISFIED TO FIND

WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT WITH OUR VIEW THAT UNESCO'S CAPABILITIES IN THIS FIELD SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED -- FOR EXAMPLE, BY STREAMLINING AND SHORTENING THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR PROCESSING COMPLAINTS, BY THE USE OF INDEPENDENT

EXPERTS TO SCREEN CHARGES OF VIOLATIONS, AND BY BROADENING THE SCOPE OF UNESCO'S INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BEYOND "FLAGRANT AND MASSIVE" CASES (E.G. APARTHEID) TO INDIVIDUAL CASES. WE WERE ELECTED TO A 13-MEMBER WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH PRESENTING TO THE FALL SESSION OF THE BOARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS PROCEDURES. BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT OUR VIEWS RECEIVED FROM A SOLID MAJORITY OF THE BOARD, WE WERE ABLE NOT ONLY TO SUPPORT BUT TO CO-SPONSOR THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE END OF THE DEBATE.

THE BOARD DEALT WITH TWO IMPORTANT MANAGEMENT MATTERS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. DESPITE SOME STRONG, LEGALLY-BASED MISGIVINGS BY SOME SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS, WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING THE BOARD THAT IT MUST MAKE PROVISION FOR CONTINUED UNESCO COOPERATION WITH THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (JIU) OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS THE JIU -- UNDER ITS NEW STATUTE -- BEGINS TO PERFORM THE IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF MAKING EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS OF PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INCLUDING UNESCO. THE BOARD ALSO ENCOURAGED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN HIS PLANS TO USE THE NEW INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF UNESCO FOR INTERNAL EVALUATION -- THAT IS, AS A COMPLEMENT TO THE JIU. SPECIFICALLY, THE BOARD -- WITH OUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT -- PASSED A RESOLUTION URGING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL "... TO INSURE AND STIMULATE, AT HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE FIELD, THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING METHODS, THE EVALUATION OF PROJECTS, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND A POLICY OF ECONOMY FOR THE ORGANIZATION."

DESPITE RENEWED EFFORTS ON OUR PART, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REVERSE THE DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN THE UNESCO HEADQUARTERS SECRETARIAT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS -- A DECLINE WHICH HAS BROUGHT THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS IN THE SECRETARIAT TO THE LOWEST POINT IN THE RECENT HISTORY OF UNESCO, 84 (12.92 PER CENT) OF 650 POSTS. THE DECLINE STEMS IN PART FROM THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF TOP-LEVEL AMERICANS (7) REACHED THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE, IN PART FROM THE GENERAL RETRENCHMENT IN POSITIONS (SOME 134 REMAIN UNFILLED) BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION, AND IN PART FROM UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF THE U. S. IN UNESCO. WE WERE GRATIFIED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT OUR EFFORTS LED TO A

DECISION BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL -- ANNOUNCED TO THE BOARD -- TO APPOINT AN AMERICAN TO HEAD THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION, A KEY POSITION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, AND TO EXTEND THE CONTRACTS OF THREE OTHER SENIOR AMERICANS WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT.
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FURTHER DEVELOPMENT THAT WAS NOT FAVORABLE WAS THE CONTINUATION OF PRESSURES TO POLITICIZE NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE FOCUS WAS NOT ON TAIWAN, BUT RATHER ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, OUR SPOKESMEN MADE STRONG PLEAS THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS BE DEALT WITH STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OR BENEFIT FROM UNESCO'S PROGRAM, AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES FOR WHICH THEY BEAR NO RESPONSIBILITY. THE MAJORITY OF THE BOARD MEMBERS, HOWEVER, CLEARLY FELT THAT A NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT IN WHOSE TERRITORY ITS HEADQUARTERS OR ITS AFFILIATES ARE LOCATED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THE CASE FOR REGARDING NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS NONPOLITICAL ENTITIES, AND WE WILL POINT OUT TO THE ORGANIZATIONS THEMSELVES THE NEED TO SPEAK OUT IN THEIR OWN DEFENSE.

LOOKED AT IN RETROSPECT, THE BUSINESS CONDUCTED AT THE SPRING SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CLEARLY DOES NOT REPRESENT MAJOR OR DRAMATIC PROGRESS IN DIRECTIONS WE CONSIDER IMPORTANT TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ORGANIZATION TAKEN ALL TOGETHER, HOWEVER, THEY CONSTITUTE MOVEMENT -- AND, WE ARE CONVINCED, MOVEMENT WHICH IS BASICALLY POSITIVE AND IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. MOREOVER, THESE STEPS WERE TAKEN IN AN ATMOSPHERE -- AN ABSENCE OF ACRIMONY, AN AVOIDANCE OF CONFRONTATION, AND A GENUINE INTEREST AMONG MEMBERS IN THE UNIQUE MANDATE OF THE ORGANIZATION -- WHICH REFLECTED THE SPIRIT OF THE NAIROBI GENERAL CONFERENCE LAST YEAR AND, IF CONTINUED, AUGURS WELL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION.

SINCERELY, VANCE

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